

2007

## The little bloke: an authorised biography of John Hatton, OA

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THE LITTLE BLOKE

An authorised biography of John Hatton, OA

The Role of the Independent in NSW Politics as Exemplified by the Career of  
John Hatton, Independent MLA NSW Parliament 1973-1995

Thesis submitted in (partial) fulfilment of the requirements for

the award of the degree

of

Master of Arts – Research

From

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

By

RUTH RICHMOND, MCA

FACULTY OF ARTS – HISTORY PROGRAM

2007

*Earthly fame is nothing but a breath of wind,  
Which first blows one way and then blows another,  
And brings a fresh name from each fresh direction.*

*Dante Purgatorio x1-100*

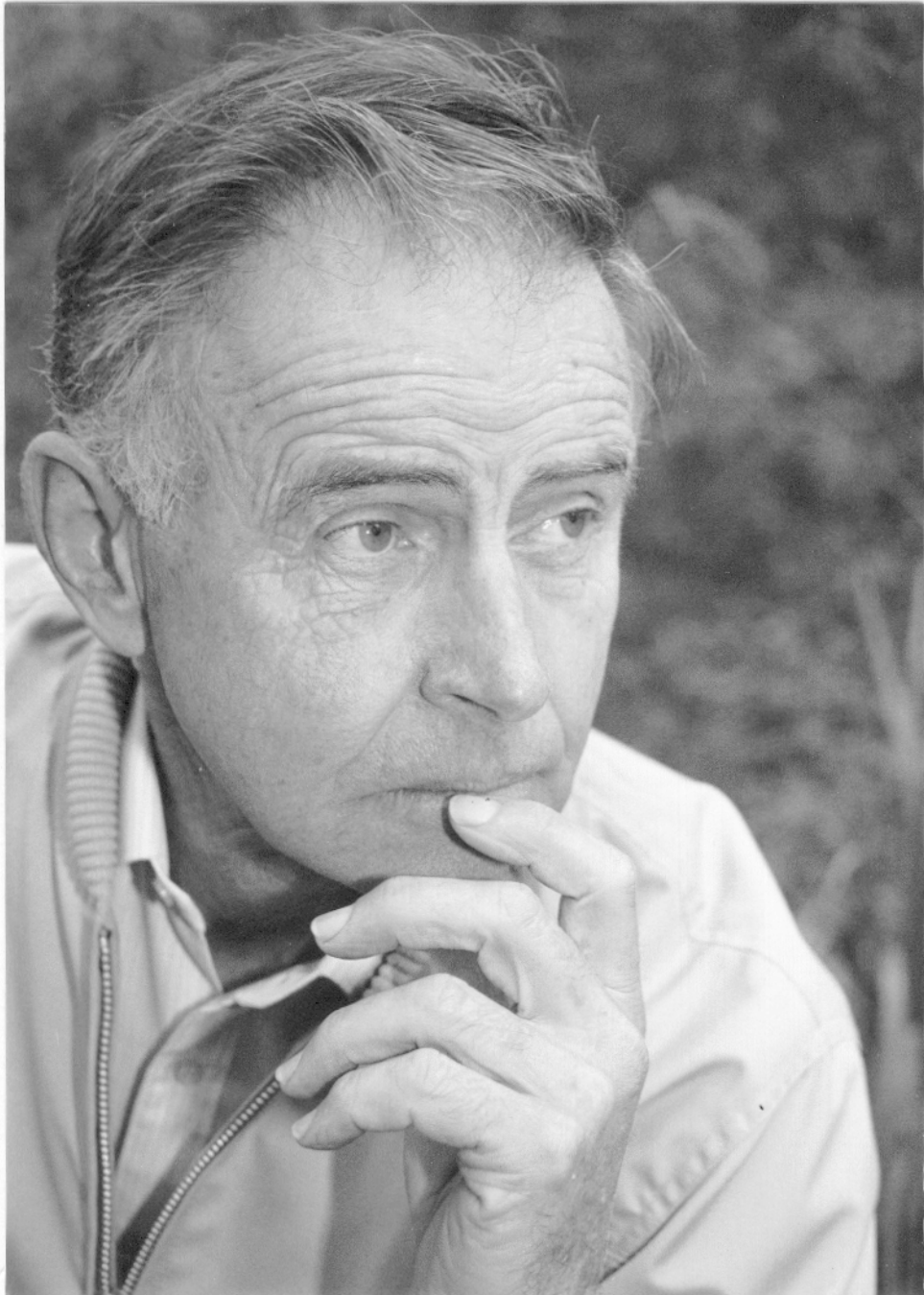


Fig. 1 John Edward Hatton

## **CERTIFICATION**

I, Ruth Richmond, declare that this thesis, submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Master of Arts Research (1301), in the Faculty of Arts, University of Wollongong, is wholly my own work unless otherwise referenced or acknowledged. The document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

Ruth L. Richmond

10 January 2007

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	Australian Broadcasting Commission
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTU	Australian Council of Trade Unions
AFP	Australian Federal Police
ALP	Australian Labor Party
ANZAC	Australian and New Zealand Army Corps
ARMCO	American Rolling Stock Company
ASIO	Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
CIU	Crime Intelligence Unit
CPA	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.
DMT	Department of Motor Transport
GST	Goods and Services Tax
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption
JHPA	John Hatton Personal Archives
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MP	Member of Parliament
NCA	National Crime Authority
NSW	New South Wales
NSWPD	New South Wales Parliamentary Debates
OA	Order of the Officer of Australia
QC	Queen's Counsel
SCPA	Shoalhaven Combined Progress Associations
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
UNSW	University of New South Wales
UOW	University of Wollongong



## **Abstract**

John Hatton stretched the limits of the role of an Independent Member of the New South Wales (NSW) Legislative Assembly further than any politician preceding him. This study is an authorised empirical biography and examines how John Edward Hatton exercised the role of an Independent Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) in NSW Parliament during the years 1973-1995. It will show how he acquired power, define the nature and limits of his power, and describe how he influenced government to meet electoral needs, to fight corruption, and institute parliamentary reform. This will include an examination of the man, and his background before entering Parliament, which will show how themes of obligation and probity arose, and how they informed his personal and political behaviour. The scope and limits of his influence will be shown by examining bi-partisan political strategies, the constraints of parliamentary procedure, the working of the bureaucracy and the judiciary. It will compare Hatton's response to these things with that of other Independents, place his career in a social, political, economic and cultural context, and show its significance within the body of literature relating to the role of the Independent. As an empirical biography it will demonstrate that biography is a genre which enhances historical record and that this biography has a significant place in the existing body of literature.

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